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Exploration and Discovery

THE GERMANS IN BABYLON

The German Orient-Society has worked industriously on the site to old Babylon for several years, and made some valuable discoveries, according to the meager reports that have been published in their *Mitteilungen*. Their more recent work has been carried on at the mound *Kasr*. Within the limits of this portion of the ruins they have uncovered the remains of a palace of Nebuchadnezzar and of his father, Nabopolassar. In prosecuting this work they were obliged to remove four meters in depth of debris from a space of 6,400 square meters. This space was resplendent with the remains of the palaces of the great kings of the later Babylonian empire. On the southern boundaries of this space were found remains of the walls of great Babylon, of such character, the report says, as to throw some light on the solution of that vexed question in the discussion of the defenses of the capital city of lower Babylonia. Mention is made, too, of the finding of three *Nimitti-Bel* cylinders of Sardanapolis, all carrying on their surface the same legends.

THE GERMANS IN ASSUR

The prize of German excavations during the last year has been at the site of the old capital of the Assyrian empire, Assur, the modern *Kalat Schirgat*, about thirty miles below Mosul, on the right, or west, bank of the Tigris River. Excavations have been conducted at this mound since September, 1903, with marvelous success. In addition to the results already noted (*Biblical World*, October, 1904), the expedition has been wonderfully successful. In September, 1904, a *Phalluszylinder* of Ašir-rimnišēšu was found in a brick wall. Since that date many fragments of similar cylinders have been discovered in the debris. Some of these are inscribed with Old Babylonian characters, and others with late Assyrian. They bespeak the long time which marks this city as one of the most important in the upper Tigris valley. Esarhaddon (681-668 B. C.) and Sargon (722-705 B. C.) built palaces here and fitted them out in the most approved style of that day.

Although the printed report gives one a very fragmentary idea of the scope and amount of excavated material, we note with interest that the